THE UNION.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

FRIDAY NIGHT, MAY 16, 1845.

THE TWO CONVENTIONS.

We throw upon our second page the proceedings of the Baptist convention at Augusta, and the Methodist convention at Louisville, as far as we have received them. They are calculated to command the attention of the people, and they call for some reflections, for which we have no space to spare in *this* evening's paper.

OREGON.

THE DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT.

We had intended to continue our review of Lord John Russell's speech in Parliament on the Oregon question, regularly to its conclusion; but we do not now consider it necessary to proceed farther in exposing the numerous and glaring misstatements of the noble orator on points which we hope are already sufficiently understood among us,—such as the discovery of the Columbia—the exploration of that river, and the countries through which it flows, by Lewis and Clark—the settlements in various parts of the territories by American citizens previous to those attempted by any other nation—the capture of these settlements and their restoration to the United States, agreeably to the treaty of Ghent, &c. On these subjects, we think it superfluous to add any thing to what is already well known among us; and we shall therefore content ourselves with correcting what seems to be a misconception; namely, that our government had rejected all offers of compromise on the part of Great Britain, with regard to the partition of the countries west of the Rocky Mountains.

This assertion is wholly erroneous. The propositions made by the United States have been all in the spirit of compromise; and Great Britain seems, from the commencement, to have acted upon the determination never to agree to a division of the territories in question, except upon terms which would secure to herself all the advantages derivable from them, and would render the portion assigned to the United States of no value politically, and of very little use in any way, to their citizens.

If the United States have rights of any kind in that part of America, they extend to the whole region west of the Rocky mountains, from the 42d parallel to and beyond the 54th, comprehending all the territories drained by the Columbia, and those intervening between the former and the Pacific. The coasts of that region were all examined by the Spaniards or by the citizens of the United States, before they had ever been seen by the people of any other nation. The interior was first explored by Americans in all directions, except the valley of the northern branch of the Columbia, which was first descended by the British in 1811, after an American settlement had been made near the sea. The first settlements in them were made by Spaniards and by people of the United States. The right of the United States to their settlement was acknowledged by Great Britain in its restoration in 1818, unconditionally; the mental reservation alleged by the British commissioners eight years afterwards, in a manner worthy of the representatives of a Sforza, a Visconti, or a Borgia, to the contrary notwithstanding.

These are our assertions; and when we call for proofs of discovery or settlement anterior to those of the Americans and the Spaniards, we receive from Great Britain nothing but the *Nootka Convention*, as subsisting ever since 1790, through peace and through war, in defiance of the assertion of Lord Bathurst in 1815, that *Great Britain knows no exception to the rule, that all treaties are ended by war between the parties.*

The rights of Spain were resigned to the United States by the Florida treaty in 1819; and if they extended to one foot of ground, they comprehended all west of the Rocky mountains from the forty-second parallel to the vicinity of the fifty-fourth. But it was not convenient to Great Britain that the United States should possess ports on the Pacific, from which their vessels might issue and spread over that sea, or lands capable of sustaining a large and enterprising population; and the decree accordingly went forth that Great Britain would assent to no arrangement with the United States which did not secure to her the territory north and west of the Columbia, including all the harbors, and almost all the lands fit for cultivation in that part of the world.

The proposition first made by the United States was, that the 49th parallel of latitude, which had been adopted as the dividing line between their territories and those of Great Britain, from the vicinity of the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky mountains, should be continued westward as far as the possessions of the two nations extended in that direction—thus offering to resign their right to what lay further north. This being rejected, it was agreed that as neither party claimed a perfect title to any portion of the country, the whole should be left free and open to the people of both for ten years.

Within those ten years the title of Spain to all north of the 42d parallel was surrendered to the United States; and Russia engaged to make no settlements south of the latitude of 54 degrees 40 minutes. The American government thereupon proposed an agreement, by which Great Britain should make no settlements south of the 51st parallel, and the United States should make none north of that line, substituting afterwards the 49th parallel for the 51st; and then, in 1824, came the first definite proposition from Great Britain for a partition of the territory. The line of separation was to run along the 49th parallel from the Rocky mountains to a large branch of the Columbia, down which, and down the main stream, it was to be continued to the sea. Great Britain was to have all north and west of this line, except that the United States should possess *a small detached territory* in the angle formed between the Pacific shore and the southern side of the Strait of Fuca, comprising one harbor for small vessels on the ocean, and one for large vessels on the strait. Upon this the negotiation ended. In 1826, the United States, for the first time, proposed the 49th parallel, as the definitive line of boundary, from the Rocky mountains to the open Pacific; to which the British replied by repeating their proposition as above stated. Neither party would yield more; and so, after formally withdrawing their respective offers, by which each declared that it was in no wise to be considered bound thereafter, they renewed the agreement, to leave the country open to the people of both, for an indefinite period; subject, however, to be terminated after a year's notice of such intention by either to the other. That agreement still subsists.

Now, can it be said that the American government has been averse to a compromise? It has offered to surrender all north of the 49th degree of latitude; but Great Britain claims another portion, without which the territory left to the United States would be without value. The mouth of the Columbia scarcely deserves the name of a harbor; and those ports in the detached territory would be useless to the United States, if separated by the interposition of a foreign province. The seat of trade of the countries of the lower Columbia lies in Admiralty inlet, the great bay running southwardly from Fuca's strait, with numerous ports, and surrounded by rich and beautiful lands, which the line proposed by Great Britain would place entirely in her power. Harbors equally good, or better, are to be found further north: but the object of that nation would seem to be, to exclude the star-spangled banner from the Pacific. Let her take from the United States the harbors of Admiralty inlet, by a treaty; then, perhaps, raise a quarrel with the Sandwich islands, sufficient to afford a colorable excuse for occupying them; and say, then, where will our six hundred whaling vessels find rest and refreshment on the shores of the Pacific?

The Bay of San Francisco is indeed one of the finest harbors in the world, and the surrounding country is most fertile and delightful; but it does not belong to us, and the possession of it would be an insufficient compensation for Admiralty inlet.

It has been advanced (by a Southern journal for which we entertain great respect) that our government has either acknowledged the weakness or uncertainty of its title to these countries, by offering to give up a portion, or has been recreant in proposing to cede what justly belongs to us. This has, however, been said upon an imperfect knowledge of the facts. The first proposition of our government with regard to the 49th parallel of latitude, was made in 1818, when neither party claimed absolute possession, as distinctly declared, not only in the discussion, but in the convention which ended it. Great Britain might then have made a treaty with Spain securing to herself the same rights which we acquired by the Florida treaty, and thus materially diminishing the strength of our title as against herself; and such was probably the intention of her government at the time when she concluded the convention of 1818. Against the consequences of such an arrangement it was proper to provide; and the 49th parallel was proposed by us as the most convenient line for designating the portions which each might thus acquire. It was rejected, and the United States was not bound by the offer when they made their treaty with Spain, or since. When this offer was renewed in 1824, and in 1826 when the 49th parallel was proposed as a definitive line of separation between the possessions of the two parties,—at neither of these periods was the question by any means so well understood as at present. The most important historical proofs of the claims of the United States were then wanting, as may be clearly seen, by examining the reports of both those negotiations; and the United States might then have yielded, without loss of honor at least, much which must now be retained at all hazards. Besides, how clear soever might have been the right of the United States in 1827, it was necessary for them to provide against the consequences of the expiration of the convention, which would occur in a year; for, unless some stipulation were made, as it would have been impossible for them at that time to occupy the country, the only alternatives would have been war, or an entire abandonment of their claims. In order to avoid both these evils, the offer of a partition compromise was first made by our government, and that proving impracticable, the other compromise with regard to the temporary use of the countries was adopted.

We have no wish to excite animosity against Great Britain or any other nation. We know the value of peace to ourselves, to Great Britain, and to the world; but we conceive that our government has already gone as far, in the spirit of compromise, to maintain it, as the honor and interests of the nation will permit; and there is certainly nothing either in the character of the British government, as shown by what daily takes place, or in the disposition cherished by its members towards the United States which should induce us to place unqualified confidence in all its professions of fairness and moderation. Facts must speak for themselves. Does not every packet from London bring us the account of some new acquisition which has been forcibly made by Great Britain? Of the disposition of a government, we can seldom judge by the declarations of its ministers; but it is sometimes unwittingly betrayed by its confidential officers and agents. We should all know in what manner the United States and their people were regarded by Lord Sydenham, the late Governor-General of Canada, and previously the President of the Board of Trade of Great Britain, as displayed in his letters to his former colleagues, published after his death by his brother. Those who desire to understand upon what principles personages such as the Governor General of India occasionally act, are referred to the history of the war in Scinde, by Major-General Sir William Napier, the accomplished author of the history of the Peninsular war, now governor of the island of Guernsey, one of the most important outposts of the British empire.

In the picture drawn of the United States by Lord Sydenham, we are represented as "utterly immoral;" our government is "the worst of tyrannies—that of a mob, supported by the most odious and profligate corruption;" in our political parties, "the only object of the leading men *of either* is to instil some wretchedly low sentiment into the people, and then explode it for their own advantage. There is scarcely a statesman of *either party* who would not adopt the most violent or the basest doctrine, however, if he thought that he could work it to advantage with the majority;" our country is, in fine, "unbearable to a man of any education, and the central government itself a by-word amongst civilized nations." "*I hope*," is his pious wish, "*that we may live long enough to see this great bubble burst; and I do not believe that we need be very long-lived for that.*"

The object of General Napier's book is to defend his brother, Gen. Sir Charles Napier, the conqueror of Scinde, and Lord Ellenborough, the Governor General of India, from the imputations cast upon them in India, and in England, on account of their conduct in the province thus annexed to the British empire, and to throw the odium upon Lord Ellenborough's predecessor, Lord Auckland. He there shows clearly that Lord Auckland, "under pretence of a friendly interest in the affairs of Scinde," forced upon the Ameers or Princes of that country, a treaty which he well knew that they neither would, nor should, nor could keep, thus "placing a loaded bombshell in their palace;" that this treaty was repeatedly broken by the British authorities; and that when it was at length, as anticipated, infringed by the Ameers, Lord Ellenborough found *himself obliged to annex the country to the British empire*, by means of those brilliant victories achieved by Sir Charles Napier.

The historian defends the conduct of Lord Ellenborough and of his own brother, upon principles which might have been considered fair in Italy, during the fifteenth century, but the morality of which can scarcely be admitted at the present day. "The first injustice," says he, "remains a stigma on the government perpetrating it; but for the nation, for succeeding governments, new combinations are presented, which may, and generally do, *make it absolute for self-preservation, and therefore justifiable, not only to uphold, but to extend, what is at first to be condemned.*"

Now, are the opinions of such distinguished persons as Lord Sydenham and General Napier to be considered as those of simple individuals, and as not in some measure indicative of the views of the British government? Are we to regard the government of which these gentlemen are trusted agents, as disposed to treat us with all possible propriety, or to abstain from the employment of all means to divide, to depress, to crush our republic?

It is scarcely necessary for us to repeat, after making these frank statements, that we are not actuated by any unfriendly spirit towards the ministry or the people of England. There is something in the English character—not a little in many of their institutions—much in the zeal, sagacity, ingenuity, and enterprise of their people—more in their arts and literature, from which we draw, every hour of our lives, some of our purest pleasures—to command our respect and good will. We take sides, of course, with our own country; and we have taken sides in every contest which she has had with Great Britain, because we believe she has had justice on her side. We take sides with her on the question of Oregon, because we believe that here, too, the *right* is decidedly with the United States. But we mean no discourtesy in all the frankness of our declarations towards her government or its representatives. We intend no general or national reflections; for she presents many honorable exceptions to the cases which we have quoted. We prefer peace, infinitely, to war with her. We trust our government will do everything it honorably can to preserve peace; and we must repeat, in all the sincerity of our hearts, what we said in a late paper, and what the whig papers have so frequently quoted, and what the last "New York Express" itself declares was spoken "in good taste, in good temper, and in good spirit."

"We want peace with Great Britain—peace with all the world; but it must be an honorable peace. We hope the present administration will continue the negotiation which was unfinished by the last. We trust that they will calmly discuss the subject with the British minister, hear what he has to say, and adjust the differences, if it be possible, compatibly with our rights and our honor. But it must be with a due regard to those categories."

The New York prints are said to be in full chase about the rumor respecting Mr. Calhoun's going on a special mission to England. The Herald has an article on it, with the head, "*Minister to England—Peace or War?*" It says that its previous article "has been commented on by the press with a good deal of interest, and particularly by the commercial journals of this city." No wonder, indeed, if the issue of "*peace or war*" were involved in the question. But we respectfully advise the *quidnuncs* of New York to spare their *speculations* until they ascertain the *facts*. The first rule in all philosophy is, to be certain of the facts of the case. What waggish philosopher was it, who once set all the savans of England to work upon the curious problem how it came to pass that a certain person had a leg so constituted that boiling water could not scald it—and in the midst of their lucubrations, he wrote to inform them that he forgot to state one circumstance of some little consequence in the case, viz: that it was a wooden leg! The politicians and merchants of New York had better pause until they ascertain whether there be any thing *afoot* which is worth the pains of a discussion.

We are indebted to the "New York Courier and Enquirer" for an opportunity of seeing, (what was overlooked in proof sheet,) and of correcting, an erratum in our long article of Monday evening. Of course, that paragraph was intended to read as follows:

"For ourselves, we have no fears of the result. Defending, as we do, the course of the administration, because it acts upon the great principles which we have supported for forty years—and because, whilst it would desire peace and decline no wise, amicable mode for preserving it, yet it prefers, even to peace, any alternative, rather than make any disgraceful concessions of our rights to any foreign power, we see no reason to fear for the country. Let an honorable peace abide with us; we should hail it with pleasure. If Great Britain, however, should seek to bluster us into terms, and demand any concessions at the expense of national principle and national honor, our nation will not shrink from the alternative then forced upon our adoption. We fear no consequences."

The "New York Courier" suggests *arbitration*. We understand that Mr. Calhoun declined this proposition when made by the British minister—and declined it, it is said, upon grounds of the strongest character. We are content to wait for the publication of that document, with the general remark, that it is seldom, if ever, that the umpirage of a third power has been able to settle satisfactorily the controversy between two States in relation to disputed territory.

A TRIUMPH INDEED!

The New York Journal of Commerce takes more pains with its political statistics than any paper with which we are acquainted, and its statements are generally correct. It gives us, in its Thursday morning's number, its tableau of the votes for members of Congress at the late election in Virginia. It estimates the *democratic majority* in the whole State at 8,131. Last November it was 5,893. We shall publish the estimates of this glorious victory.

A general naval court martial has been ordered by the Secretary of the Navy to convene in this city on the 2d of June next. The court, we learn, has been ordered principally for the trial of Captain Philip F. Voorhees, on charges growing out of his proceedings while in command of the frigate Congress, in the river Plate, during the months of September and October of the past year. The court is composed of the following officers:

Captain Charles Stewart, president.
" Charles G. Ridgely, member.
" John Downs, "
" Stephen Cassin, "
" Lawrence Kearney, "
" David Geisinger, "
" Chas. S. McCauley, "
" John H. Aulick, "
" French Forrest, "

And Benjamin F. Hallett, esq., of Boston, judge advocate.

WASHINGTON, 16th May, 1845.

TO THOMAS RITCHIE, esq,
Editor of the Union.

SIR: I observe in last night's Union a letter from Major Thomas L. Gaines, of Nashville, Tennessee, to S. H. Laughlin, esq., Recorder of the General Land Office of this city, dated the 4th instant, informing him of the rapid decline of Gen. Jackson. You add, editorially, that Mr. Blair had received a few lines from the General, dated "as late as the 7th instant, stating that he had attempted to write to him; but his great feebleness had prevented his finishing his letter." This information you derived from me yesterday evening. I find that I was mistaken in the date of Gen. Jackson's letter to Mr. Blair: it is *dated* the 3d, and *postmarked* the 7th inst. I opened it at the post office and read it hastily, and noticed the date of the postmaster only. The letter was given to one of Mr. Blair's servants to take to him in the country, which he failed to do, and I now have time to read it carefully, and correct the erroneous date which I gave to you.

As a majority of the people of this country—perhaps a majority of the civilized people of the globe—feel a lively interest in whatever relates to this great and good man, and as this is probably the last letter he will ever write, I will take the liberty of stating the substance of it to you, feeling confident that neither General Jackson nor Mr. Blair, under the circumstances, will blame me for doing so. Instead of giving the substance in my words, as promised above, I will give extracts in the general's own words, which, no doubt, will be much more satisfactory than my condensation. He commences as follows:

"HERMITAGE, May 3, 1845.

"MY DEAR MR. BLAIR:

"This is the third effort I make to acknowledge the receipt of your kind and much-esteemed favor of the 19th ultimo. I read in every word of it your sincere friendship and regard—I esteem it a legacy beyond price.

"We are all cheered at the Hermitage with the the hope of seeing our kind friend, Mrs. Blair, with you and family, at the Hermitage. Relieved, as you now are, from the incessant labor of editor of the Globe, a journey with Mrs. Blair as far as the Hermitage would renew your health, and be of great benefit to you. What pleasure this would give us all! and our dear little Rachel is in ecstasy that she will see her dear friend Mrs. Blair. It would be a great treat to have one hour's chat before I go hence."

Here follow several sentences concerning his papers, concluding with these words: "I wish them handed over to you, to whom I will them for the defence of my reputation. There are many private papers that ought to go into no other hands but a confidential friend's."

"Our friend Col. Polk will now * * * * * * to meet the braggadocia and bluster of Peel and Russell, put forth at this time to alarm the timid and spur up the American traitors. My dear friend, I am exhausted, and must close. I am a blubber of water from the toes to the crown of my head, and, every line I write must pause, for breath. May the choicest blessings of Heaven be bestowed on you and every branch of your family, is the united prayer of the inmates of the Hermitage."

This letter occupies a little more than two pages of letter paper. The handwriting is as good as he ever wrote—no sign of tremor, and not a word scratched out, or interlined. Respectfully,

JOHN C. RIVES.

OFFICIAL.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.—ORDERS, &c.

MAY 15.

Lieut. T. A. M. Craven, furlough one year.

Passed Mid. A. D. Harrell, leave extended three months.

Professor T. H. Perry, detached from duty connected with coast survey, and waiting orders.

Chief Engineer C. B. Moss, detached from duty at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and furlough till 15th December next.

MAY 16.

Captain Andrew Fitzhugh, to the command of the steamer Mississippi.

Commander Henry A. Adams, to the Mississippi.

Lieutenant Wm. Smith, to the Mississippi.

Lieutenant Jno. C. Carter, detached from the receiving-ship at New York, and ordered to the Mississippi.

Lieutenant Wm. A. Parker, ordered to the Mississippi.

Passed Midshipman Jos. N. Barney, detached from the receiving-vessel at Philadelphia, and ordered to the Mississippi as Acting Master.

Purser Lewis Warrington, ordered to the Mississippi.

Passed Midshipman Henry Rogers, ordered to the Mississippi.

Boatswain Joshua Bryant, ordered to the Mississippi.

Gunner John Martin, detached from New York yard, and ordered to the Mississippi.

Carpenter Joseph Cox, detached from Portsmouth yard, and ordered to the Mississippi.

Sailmaker Thomas J. Boyce, ordered to the Mississippi.

Purser Thomas Breese, to the Boston station as inspector of provisions, &c.

Letters have been received from Commodore Sloat, in the Pacific, to the 7th of March. The Savannah passed several weeks of the winter at Monterey.

Peru was quiet. The presidential election was to take place on the 19th instant. There seemed to be no opposition to the election of General Castillia, and there was little doubt of his being the next President.

Every effort was made to employ the force at the commodore's disposition in the best manner to give the utmost protection to the commercial interests of the country.

The mail of this morning brought letters of the date of April 3 from the coast of Africa. The Spitfire had been taken by the officers of the Truxton, and has been sent to Boston. The Spitfire sailed under the American flag, and was taken when at anchor off the factory of a noted slave dealer, about forty miles above the Rio Pingo. An expedition to ascend an African river to such a distance from its mouth, involved great exposure and fatigue. This is especially the case with the Pingo.

Lieutenant Bird returned in command of the Spitfire; and, on the recommendation of the surgeon, Midshipman Wilcox was ordered to take passage in her.

For the Union.

MEXICO—No. 7.

The messages of Presidents Jackson and Van Buren, with the mass of documents upon which their views were formed, were referred to the Committees of Foreign Relations of both houses, and received from them full consideration. A copious abstract of some of the reports of these committees will show in what light the legislative department of the government regarded this subject.

On the 19th February, 1837, Mr. Buchanan, from the Senate committee, submitted a report in which it is, among other things, said:

"From the documents submitted to the committee, it appears that, ever since the revolution of 1822, which separated Mexico from Spain, and even for some years before, the United States have had repeated causes of just complaint against the Mexican authorities. From time to time, as these insults and injuries have occurred, demands for satisfaction and redress have been made by our successive public ministers at the city of Mexico, but almost all these demands have hitherto proved unavailing."

* * * *

"It might have been expected that, after the date of the treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation concluded between the two republics on the 5th April, 1831, these causes of complaint would have ceased to exist. That treaty so clearly defines the rights and duties of the respective parties, that it seemed almost impossible to misunderstand or to mistake them. The committee, notwithstanding, regret to be compelled to state that ali the causes of complaint against Mexico, which have been specially noticed in the correspondence referred to them, have occurred since the conclusion of this treaty."

"If the government of the United States were to exact strict and prompt redress from Mexico, your committee might, with justice, recommend an immediate resort to war or reprisals." The committee then gives its "hearty assent to the sentiments contained in the message of the President," and "suggests the propriety of pursuing the form required by the 34th article of the treaty with Mexico, in all the cases to which it may be applicable. This article provides that, 'if (what indeed cannot be expected) any of the articles contained in the present treaty shall be violated or infracted in any manner whatever, it is stipulated that neither of the parties will order or authorize any acts of reprisal, or declare war against the other, on complaint of injuries or damages, until the said party considering itself offended, shall have first presented to the other a statement of such injuries or damages, verified by competent proofs, and demanded justice and satisfaction, and the same shall have been either refused or unreasonably delayed.' After such a demand, should prompt justice be refused by the Mexican government, we may appeal to all nations, not only for the equity and moderation with which we have acted towards a sister republic, but for the necessity which will then compel us to seek redress for our wrongs, either by actual war or by reprisals."

On the 24th February, 1837, Mr Howard, from the Committee on Foreign Relations of the House of Representatives, submitted a report on the same subject. It says, that "The history of the relations between the United States and Mexico exhibits an unbroken succession of good feelings, and, as far as the occasion permitted, of kind offices on the part of the American government; following out in this, as in other respects, the disposition and wishes of the people. The first to recognise Mexico as an independent power, the government of the United States has been among the first in the unceasing manifestation of friendship to this adjacent North American government.

"At an early period of her struggle for independence, the ports of the United States were open to her flag, even at the hazard of incurring responsibility for this act of impartial neutrality. But the committee perceive with profound regret, that, on the part of Mexico, there has been a long train of injuries to the American citizens and insults to the national flag, for which redress, though often promised, has seldom been obtained. This omission has doubtless proceeded, in a great measure, from the unsettled condition of the Mexican government, the numerous and radical changes which have prevented a fixed policy from being pursued in its foreign affairs. But the committee believe that it has also sprung, in part, from a knowledge of the form of our government, and the limited power of its executive branch."

After corroborating this conclusion by referring to cases in which other powers under whose institutions the Executive could more promptly and efficiently assert the national honor and rights, had been more successful in obtaining redress for the injuries which they had sustained; and that in our own case, when reparation for an insult was required by the commander of a naval force, assurance was given that the Mexican functionary who had perpetrated the outrage, had been removed from his post, and promises made that the subject should be investigated and the culpable parties punished, yet as soon as the squadron had departed from the Mexican shores, the displaced officer was recalled into service, and assigned to another command "where his hostile feelings might again endanger the security of American citizens or property."

In a subsequent part of this report, the committee show that this reasonable anticipation was speedily realized, by the arrest and imprisonment of eight seamen attached to one of our public vessels; the prevention of the American consul from visiting them whilst sick and in prison, which is denounced as an act of unpardonable inhumanity; which proceedings, say the committee, "appear to have proceeded from the same officer whose fictitious punishment, but real promotion, had been offered as an atonement for a previous insult to the American flag."

"Looking," say the committee, in continuation, "through the catalogue of complaints which the United States have to make against Mexico on their own account, as the party whose dignity and honor are assailed, the committee are unable to perceive any proof of a desire on the part of the Mexican government to repair injury or satisfy honor. The merchant vessels of the United States have been fired into, her citizens attacked, and even put to death, and her ships of war treated with disrespect, when paying a friendly visit to a port where they had a right to expect hospitality." In concluding the report, the committee observe, that "they fully concur with the President, that ample cause exists for taking redress into our own hands, and believe we should be justified in the opinion of other nations for taking such a step. But they are willing to try the experiment of another demand, made in the most solemn form, upon the justice of the Mexican government, before any further proceedings are adopted. It is their opinion, that a diplomatic functionary of the highest grade should be appointed to bear this last appeal, whose rank would indicate at once the importance of his mission and the respect in which the government to which he is accredited is held."

We have shown in a preceding number, that the Executive acted upon the recommendation of Congress in making another effort to induce Mexico to recognise the obligations of justice and of treaty stipulations, and that this experiment proved fruitless and unavailing. The subject again came under the consideration of Congress at the instance of the Executive, and on the 7th July, 1838, the Committee on Foreign Relations again submitted their views in the shape of a report. After recapitulating, in a brief but distinct narrative, the circumstances of the case up to the termination of the preceding Congress, the committee proceed "to review briefly what has since occurred." Reference is made to the report of the Secretary of State, already cited, for the mode in which this demand was made, and the facts which attended and followed it. A more extraordinary development of insincerity and bad faith, of prevarication and duplicity, was, perhaps, never exhibited. Insults and injuries continue to occur; reparation is delayed under the most frivolous pretexts; the Mexican executive is shown to give statements to its own Congress different from, and wholly irreconcileable with those made to our government, and its whole conduct is demonstrated to be marked by characteristics which, in private society, would debar the guilty party from farther connection with men of probity and honor.

Mr. Cushing, a member of the committee, made a minority report, which dissents, in some respects, from the majority. He, however, "concurs in the opinion that the Mexican government, by a series of acts, part aggressive on the rights of individual citizens of the United States, and part immediately affecting the national dignity and honor, and by delay to make reparation in the premises, has given to the United States cause of resort to measures of public remedy, if other circumstances did not render such a course at present impolitic and unjust on the part of this government." Mr. Cushing perceived, in "the prolonged war of independence," and "in the civil anarchy which accompanied and followed that war," a palliation of the irregularities which have marked the foreign relations and diplomatic intercourse of that republic. He perceived a further palliation "in events connected with the establishment of the independence of Texas." Mr. Cushing deems this, however, "no sufficient answer to the causes of complaint alleged by the United States," and the reason he assigns for this opinion are peculiarly pertinent to the questions now in agitation between the two countries. The grounds taken are these: "because some of the injuries sustained by us date back anterior to the commencement of the civil war in Texas, and others of a later date are wholly independent of that fact; and because, whatever reason the Mexican republic may have to take umbrage at the conduct of the citizens or the government of the United States, in reference to that or any other matter, it surely behooves her to seek redress through negotiation, or other direct ways, sanctioned in the usage of nations, rather than by occasional acts of public or private resentment."

These views are well deserving of a more enlarged discussion, have a powerful bearing upon the questions now in controversy between the two nations, and involve some of the most important questions in public and international law. Being at present limited to a simple narrative of the events which have transpired, and the views taken by those clothed with public authority, the discussion of these topics must unavoidably be deferred, and this number of our series shall conclude with the final paragraph of Mr. Cushing's minority report:

"The undersigned at the same time declares that if, however the reverse shall hereafter appear, and it shall prove (contrary to his expectations) that the Mexican government, not content with having persisted in so many acts injurious to the United States, has added thereto the aggravation of procrastinating redress by insincere and perfidious pretences of accommodation,) he shall consider it the right of the federal government to pursue, in that event, the most prompt and decided measures for amply vindicating the interests and honor of the United States."

C.

We are indebted to Mr. *H. Winter*, snuff and cigar dealer, Pennsylvania avenue, for specimens of cigars and chewing tobacco. The five brands of his recently imported cigars are remarkably fine. Indeed, it is difficult to distinguish which is the best. The tobacco is a specimen of the very best of the Virginia manufacture. (Such, at least, is the *official* report which has been made to us of a *connoisseur*, to whom we handed over the specimens for examination. As for ourselves, we do not use tobacco in any form, and therefore do not pretend to be either *connoisseurs* or *amateurs*. We must say that it strikes us as being singularly destitute of taste, when we walk the streets of Richmond or of Washington, to see youths without beard, and sometimes boys, smoking cigars. There is certainly more excuse, on the principle of Condorcet's "Progress of the Human Mind," (the extraordinary work of that great man which was written in prison,) viz: that all nations require *some stimulus*, for *old men*, or *some* young men using tobacco. But that *youths* or *boys*, in whose arteries the hot blood boils of itself, and to whom life and everything appertaining to it is excitement enough,—that *they* should use "the Indian weed" in any form whatever, appears to us not only superfluous, but ridiculous.]

☞AUCTION AT THE LADIES' FAIR.—The ladies connected with the fair for the benefit of the Church of the Ascension, (Rev. Mr. Gilliss, pastor,) now open at Concert Hall, propose to close their praiseworthy and charitable work to-morrow (Saturday) evening, by a general auction of all the articles on hand. They respectfully invite the charitable to be present on the occasion.

EDITOR'S CORRESPONDENCE.

[From our regular correspondent.]

PHILADELPHIA, May 14, 1845.

The article in Monday evening's Union, and the forcible and straightforward extracts from the leading Irish papers, are the best evidences that could be furnished of the misrepresentation of, and the treachery to, the people of Ireland, by Mr. O'Connell. The Dublin Freeman's Journal contains an article, written with intelligence and candor, in the course of which *the danger* to England in a war with this country, is clearly pointed out. *Such a war never will unite Ireland, or even England, in its behalf.* The American people may be somewhat unpopular in England, on account of the bitterness with which they have been assailed by British writers; but there is a very large and overwhelming portion of the people of Great Britain, who have not forgotten that ours is truly the last refuge of the oppressed, and who still, among all the misfortunes growing out of low wages and little labor, turn to the land in the West, as to a hope that has been long and fondly cherished, where all are free alike, and where toil is sure of its reward. In the dense population of the swarming manufacturing districts of Great Britain, there are smothered more deep and bitter complaints against the policy of the English government, than have ever yet been made public; there are also many strong minds of great natural intelligence among the laboring poor, who have not hesitated to denounce the cruelties of the rich in their treatment of the masses. Whenever the suppressed breathings of these popular discontents find even constrained utterance, the details of the almost inconceivable sufferings of the English poor have been found to be awful indeed. The records of Parliament alone contain enough of the sad and melancholy statistics of their utter destitution and misery, to prove that the people of England cannot be unanimous in favor of any unholy war with the United States. It will form, even to Sir Rober Peel, a subject for grave consideration, whether the withdrawal of all supplies of cotton, which must inevitably follow any war between England and the United States, will not drive the already half-starved laborers of the United Kingdom into open and desperate rebellion—whether the increased sense of their sufferings and wrongs will not make them them ready to follow any one "bold and brave enough" to lead them; and it is a well-established fact, which history abundantly proves, that a people once roused in such a cause, do not stop until they have accomplished some great and fearful result.

England is not potent enough to prevent her discontented populace from asking themselves how much they will gain in any war with America; and whether even the triumphant success of her Majesty's army and navy will improve their condition, or give their children bread! They will answer these questions, not only as men who have suffered long and keenly, but with a perfect knowledge of the condition of Great Britain, and under the belief that a government which fears to rely upon the people, can never succeed in war merely for dominion, in this intelligent age. The recent outburst against Mr. Peel for his course on the Maynooth grant, while it may have been created by an excitement common to religious sects, is certainly significant, at this time, of more than a merely sectarian prejudice. In Ireland, the American people are confessedly, and, from the very nature of things, greatly esteemed. Even Mr. O'Connell's volunteered opposition and abuse against the United States have not been sufficient to lose us the confidence and affection of his countrymen, or to lead them to forget that thousands of Irishmen, their friends and relations, are enjoying the blessings of civil and religious freedom in this country; or that we have ever been ready to aid them, by our means and our sympathies. The name of "American" continues to be the certain passport, in spite of Mr. O'Connell, to their hospitality and regard. There are many reasons, which need not be repeated here, why such a war as would be declared by Great Britain against the United States would be odious in Ireland; and the Dublin papers have faithfully reflected the opinions of the people in their intelligent comments on the course of the whig and tory leaders. So much for the state of things in the *United* Kingdom.

The aspect of things here, in our own country, is certainly most cheering. The great mass of the people of all parties will sustain the sentiments of the President's inaugural in regard to our foreign relations. The voices of the disaffected will be overwhelmed by the loud tones of millions of freemen, who "know their rights, and, knowing, dare maintain them." We may not be as well prepared for war as Great Britain, for our trade is peace, not war; the triumphs of our country, are those which have been achieved by its institutions rather than by its armies. *We* do not go abroad to plunder the people of other countries of their wealth; or, for mere purposes of ambition, despoil them of their territory, and make them our slaves. Yet, sir, I am not one of those who believe that the first losses in any war with Great Britain would be ours. I do not believe in the picture which has been so often drawn, (and always overdrawn,) and which represents as the leading result of the three first weeks of a conflict with England, the great Atlantic cities razed to their foundation stones by the irresistible war-steamers of the enemy. No! I think better of my countrymen; and while I believe that we should always be well prepared, I believe also that we should now be able to protect our harbors, and the entrances of our harbors, successfully against any foreign power. A very intelligent and experienced sea-captain assured me, the other day, that he would undertake to blockade the channel at the breakwater, one hundred miles from Philadelphia, simply by chaining three or four vessels together, and dropping their anchors in the stream; and so effectually, too, as to prevent the approach even of the most powerful steamers. He would, of course, employ other means than those to make the scheme succeed—such as placing sufficient force in the vessels, and increasing the number of guns; but he declared to me that he entertained little doubt of the success of the plan. The crisis, however, would create the most potent defences; and we should have no difficulty in maintaining the character we established a long time ago. If a landing were effected, no one doubts the result then. By means of our railroads, stretching into the interior, and linking us, with their iron arms, with the most distant counties in Pennsylvania, fifty thousand volunteers would pour into Philadelphia at a day's notice, and would aid to swell the large and overwhelming military force in this immediate vicinity. The issue would not be doubtful, nor the contest protracted.

But may Providence keep us from a war! The age is averse to war. The means and facilities for the destruction of life have increased so fearfully, within the past ten years, as to make even the bravest stand appalled before assuming the fearful responsibility, such as the result of a conflict between two great nations would be. I have, however, deemed the views which I have hastily presented, in the preceding remarks, as not unworthy of your columns, and to show, however imperfectly, that if war must come, they who predict our downfall, or who say we shall be worsted in the struggle, regard the aspect neither as men of judgment, nor as Americans. In reference to Great Britain, I believe, with the organ of the Irish people, the Dublin Freeman's Journal: "England will be especially cautious of going to war with America, or dashing herself against the compact constitution of her States, when she reflects that America is a country with whom foreign nations are ambitious to become united, *while she herself is a country from whose merciless gripe kindred nations struggle to be released.*"

The new collector and new naval officer took their places to-day, and continued the deputies of their predecessors for the present, or until further arrangements are made.

You have the news, of course, of the great race yesterday, in which, to everybody's astonishment hereabouts, Peytona was the winner. Although the time is said to have been bad, (which many attribute to the heavy condition of the course,) good judges declare that Fashion has at last found her overmatch. I was informed to-day, by one of those who take interest in these things, that Fashion and Peytona are to run over the Camden course, near this city, in about two weeks.

Stocks to-day were generally firm at the previous rates. State fives were ¼ better, and United States Bank ½; Wilmington railroad shares stuck, with great tenacity, at 21½. The tone of the stock market is buoyant, money more abundant, and the rate of interest gradually receding. This arises, in a great degree, from the fact that bank loans are diminishing in amount, and their paper, to some extent, going out of circulation. The money, for the last three or four months, engaged in active trade, being no longer wanted in that way, will, for the next two or three months, and until trade revives again, find its way into stock transactions. The inferences, then, are, that stocks will, in the interim between the present period and the opening of the fall trade, improve in price.

In my next I will give you a condensed statement of the proceedings of the several religious anniversaries now in session here.

[From another correspondent.]

BALTIMORE, May 15, 1845.

The recent appointments in our city, by President Polk, have elicited several communications, none of which have as yet been published in your journal; and, if not contrary to any of your rules, you will please publish the enclosed, confident that it is the sentiment of nine-tenths of the unconquerable democracy of our city.

The appointment of Mr. Buchanan as postmaster, is one of the best selections the President could have made. There is no man in this community who stands higher, and the reform that he has already commenced in his office will redound to the advantage of the business community, as well as to the government. He has always been ardently attached to Mr. Calhoun, and for a short time left the "Old Hero" with that distinguished man. "That is the head and front of his offending," for which he is now receiving the wrath of his "disappointed competitors." From the hour of the nomination in our city to the glorious *finale* of the campaign, no one exerted himself with more energy and firmness than did our present postmaster. He traversed, night and day, the scenes of his former triumphs in the "tenth legion of democracy," (Baltimore county,) where his exertions were of great avail. In his appointment, the President has evinced himself to be a man of firmness and decision, for few know the means that were resorted to, to impair his success with the appointing power; but his slanderers have received a rebuke which they richly merited.

The appointments of Wm. H. Cole, jr., as surveyor of our port, and Wm. L. Marshall as district attorney, are universally popular. They have always been of the "*bone* and *sinew*" of the democracy, and their untiring efforts and zeal have been suitably rewarded.

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Last evening our different wards held meetings, and the general expression of opinion is strongly in favor of ejecting every man from office who has been in over ten years. (*Cetera desunt.*)

VORTEX.

Communicated.

Remarks on a Review in the National Intelligencer, of May 14th, of the Democratic Review.

There has been a great and labored effort, for some weeks, of the editer of the Intelligencer, to lash himself into a fury of opposition to the administration. But after the lion had lashed himself many days to no purpose, a very pretty fit came on him yesterday, uncalled.

The editor takes the "Democratic Review" for a text, and all ages of the world for a subject. He begins in a nut-shell and diverges to the bounds of the universe. He raves about everything in general, and very incoherently, and about the ghost of Jack Cade particularly, and very methodically. He is manifestly in a great panic. Whether it is a relapse of the old bank panic, or some new endemical spasm, is not clear. His principal discourse is of Jack Cade, Dr. Sterne, Godwin, Tom Paine, and Bulwer; and it would indeed be difficult for one to decide, after reading, whether the editor was excited most by the ghost of Cade, or of the Widow Wadman. After passing in review the line of ghosts, and some more shadowy creations of Bulwer's imagination, he suddenly jumps with phrenzied intrepidity into the midst of the butchers of the French revolution, and, with more than the valor of Don Quixote in his spirited and chivalrous attack on the windmill, the editor deals his blows to the right and left, till he is compelled by mere exhaustion to desist. But the spasm comes again, and the ghosts and the windmill, the French jacobins, and all the goblins and bugaboos, being put to rout, he now throws himself upon President Polk and the democratic party. But his spasms are now more feeble, though not less phrenzied. He swears terribly, but not long. After a few murmurings and curses, "he swears a prayer or two, and *sleeps* again."

But it is the ordination of heaven and the law of nature, that there should be a continual progress in all things human; a progress in government, in laws, in political institutions, in civil liberty and civil polity, no less than in the arts and sciences, in mechanics, in civilization, in the social condition, in learning, in wisdom, in religion, and that there shall be a corresponding progress and improvement in man himself, in his capacities, condition, dignity, and happiness. Progress is written upon nature, written upon the universe, written upon man, clearer than the sun, and stronger than the track of the lightning; and, though such men may rave and rail at it, it is impossible to stop it—it will go on. If it were otherwise—if we could bar his progress, and hold man stationary, we should be (at the best) now where our ancestors were two and three centuries ago—rejoicing in the dominion of the wholesome laws of the wise James, the corrupt Elizabeth, the bigoted Mary, and the dearly beloved, benevolent and pious "defender of the faith," Henry.

But, thank heaven, "the Lord reigns;" and while he reigns, and as sure as he lives, there will be progress in all human things; and until the editor can make the front of a wagon stand still while the rear is in motion, the progress in government and political knowledge will precede all other progress.

But the ghost of Cade and the shades of all the dead, though they may alarm, will not convince the editor. "If he hears not the prophets, neither will he be persuaded though one should rise from the dead." If the history of the three past centuries teaches him nothing, if he cannot believe the preaching of all the apostles of liberty, and all the teachings of history, the ghost of Cade need not be invoked—it may sleep quietly. Cade was a foolish man, but his folly was wisdom in comparison with that of a man who, in our day, under the broad light of the sun of three centuries, would attempt to arrest human progress.

The preaching of morality by the pirate, and the villain's religious precepts, may be pleasant readings in fiction; but "truth is stranger than fiction;" and parallel realities may be found in the more *homely* example of an editor who abets the late administration in the most proscriptive and spoils-seeking course ever known since the date of the constitution, and then preaches homilies to his successor, about the enormous guilt of removing some violent political opponents from office. The reading world need not resort to fictions in order to find one who acts the devil and talks the saint. Such men are every moment crossing our path in the street; and the very review which mentions them furnishes a better, at the same time that it is a real example, instead of a fiction.

Curtius in spectacles.

ALLEGHANIA.—At a remarkably full meeting of the Historical Society, last evening, after a long debate, the quietus was given to the proposition for tampering with the name of the United States, first by striking out the resolutions of the committee, and then postponing the subject indefinitely. The discussion is said to have been somewhat warm and acrimonious.—*N. Y. Com., May 14.*

From the Pennsylvanian.

CUSTOM HOUSE.—The new collector and naval officer entered upon their duties yesterday.

Mr. Horn, we understand, *has reappointed* the present efficient Deputy Collectors, Charles Treichel and Richard L. Howell.

Mr. Welsh has also *reappointed* John D. George as Deputy Naval Officer.

DIED,

On the 6th instant, at the residence of his son-in-law, in Chicago, Illinois, the Hon. THEOPHILUS W. SMITH.

He was judge of the supreme court of Illinois for a great number of years, and was always distinguished for resolution and energy of character, and for talents of a high order. A few years ago he resigned his office of judge, and has since devoted himself to the practice of law. From this pursuit he has been now called, we hope, to another and better world. In him, the State of Illinois has lost one of its most talented citizens. His loss will be deeply felt by the whole State, and deplored by his numerous and respectable relatives.
